

MARCH 14, 1963

HONG KONG

ROOF RAISING CEREMONIES AT THE NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR



Following is a transcription of remarks by Hong Kong Pavilion and World's Fair officials at the Hong Kong Pavilion roof raising ceremony, New York World's Fair, Thursday, March 14, 1963.

AMBASSADOR RICHARD C. PATTERSON, JR. [Chief of Protocol]: Ladies and gentlemen, Mr. and Mrs. Humes, Governor Poletti, and distinguished guests. Having lived in China for nearly three years, I can tell you that we meet here today under a magic name — that of Hong Kong. It would be hard to imagine any place in the

world which conjures up so much romance, such amazing commercial development, or such a center of tourism. This exhibit will be a symbol of the glamour, the wonder, the beauty and the mystery of Hong Kong.

And I have the honor, ladies and gentlemen, to present to you a man who is the Fair, who is its prophet, and who for long years has held a high place in the hearts of all New Yorkers; the former governor of our state — the Honorable Charles Poletti.

GOVERNOR CHARLES POLETTI: Thank you very much. Ambassador Patterson, thank you very much for your gracious remarks. Mr. and Mrs. Humes, and friends of the Hong Kong Pavilion. We at the World's Fair are of course much delighted that we are going to have a

Cover: The Hong Kong Pavilion, depicted here by Dong Kingman, will be a charming blend of modern design and traditional Chinese architecture. Designed by Eldredge Snyder, the building will feature upswept eaves, intense colors, intricate carvings and gilded surfaces. Inside, the pavilion will reflect all of the fascination of Hong Kong's finest shopping centers, and will include a Chinese restaurant and the Bar of the Dragons. The contractor is E. W. Howell.



Governor Charles Poletti presents Fair medallion to John Humes, president of Hong Kong Trading Company. In background are Douglas Beaton, the Fair's International official responsible for negotiating the Hong Kong contract and Mrs. John Humes.

Hong Kong Pavilion. We are exuberantly delighted that we have it so far advanced, with all the steel work set up, so that I think while we witness this steel frame we should, each of us, commend John Humes for his foresight and his aggressive spirit in getting the job so far advanced this early in 1963.

I want in this connection also to say a word of praise for the construction firm, E. W. Howell. We appreciate the splendid contribution that this firm has made. In connection with this pavilion, I am reminded of the trip Mrs. Poletti and I took to Hong Kong and that in turn brings vividly to mind a young fellow called Johnny Kao. Johnny is the energetic, dynamic and imaginative president of the Hong Kong Trading Company, Inc., which is sponsoring this pavilion. He has been working closely with Mr. John Humes. On this occasion I think it appropriate that while Johnny is far away in Hong Kong we nonetheless want to pay our respects to him and thank him for his assistance and cooperation.

Hong Kong is doing mighty well without this pavilion. I was reading in the Wall Street Journal this morning that the number of tourists that are visiting Hong Kong has increased greatly in the past two years. Just imagine what is going to happen after seventy million people come to the World's Fair in 1964 and 1965 and see this astounding pavilion representing the spirit, charm and glamour of Hong Kong. John, you'd better tell your friends back there to put up a couple more hotels to take care of the millions of Americans that undoubtedly will want to visit Hong Kong.

We are also pleased to have a Hong Kong Pavilion because all of us who are devoted to the way of life exemplified in the free world, necessarily must think of Hong Kong as an outpost of freedom — near a vast country where freedom has been destroyed. And we hope that the torch of freedom that is now burning brightly in Hong Kong will someday be extended to cover that vast mass of the mainland and the 700 million people

who so ruthlessly have been deprived of freedom.

In closing I want to present to John Humes on behalf of the president of the New York World's Fair, Mr. Robert Moses, and the Executive Committee of the World's Fair, a medal which has on it the Unisphere and on the other side, the seal of the City of New York, because as you know this Fair does commemorate the 300th anniversary of the founding of New York as a city. So John, if you'll step up here I'd like to present this to you, and also shake your hand and congratulate you and wish you well. And the same congratulations and good wishes are extended to your charming wife, Mrs. Humes.

JOHN HUMES: Thank you very much Governor.

Governor Paletti and John Humes point with pride to the well-advanced steel framework for the Hong Kong Pavilion. Completion of the exhibit is scheduled for September of this year.



AMBASSADOR PATTERSON: Thank you Governor Poletti. Now John Humes who has just been presented to you by the Governor is, as you know, the chairman of the Hong Kong Trading Corporation. He's a philanthropist and a good citizen. He is a civic worker who has done a great deal for the City of New York, and we are proud to have him associated with this World's Fair. I'd like to present for a bow the charming and talented wife of John Humes, who had so much to do toward getting this building started.

JOHN HUMES: Thank you very much, Ambassador Patterson. I should like to reciprocate in presenting Governor Poletti a little token of the handicraft and the skills of the people of Hong Kong — a small teak and jade cigarette box.

GOVERNOR POLETTI: Thank you very much. I'm very grateful.

JOHN HUMES: This is a very happy day for all of us who are connected with the Hong Kong Pavilion at the World's Fair. We are celebrating here today the roof raising of this pavilion, rather than the groundbreaking, because fortunately it has proceeded so well under the able direction of the E. W. Howell people. Shortly we hope to set off some firecrackers — the traditional way of celebrating things in Hong Kong and in China. It is our hope that after this building has been completed and the exotic Oriental restaurant and bar have been decorated, there will be many more occasions when it properly can be said that this roof will be raised.

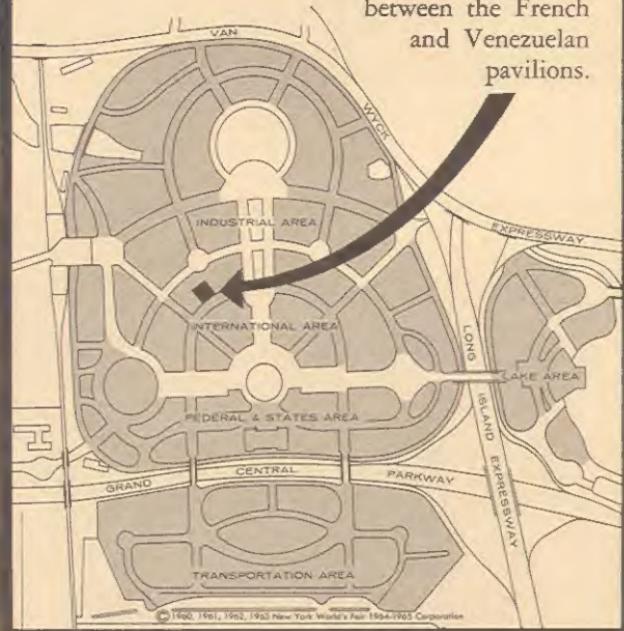
Those of us who have sponsored the pavilion have been very fortunate in securing the exceptional talents of Mr. Eldredge Snyder, our architect; in consultation with the distinguished internationally renowned artist, Mr. Dong Kingman, Mr. Snyder has designed a spectacular and eye-catching building which we hope will be one of the brightest stars in the lovely firmament of this Fair. I

THE HONG KONG PAVILION

is located on a 9,011 sq. ft. site
in the Fair's
International Area
between the French
and Venezuelan
pavilions.

should also like to mention with sincerest thanks, our deep appreciation to Governor Poletti, and all of the members of the World's Fair staff and particularly Mr. Douglas Beaton, for the wonderful cooperation and efficiency which has marked all of our relations with them.

It is perhaps appropriate to mention that one of the finest restaurants in Hong Kong has signed up with our company to operate the restaurant and the bar in this building. Among those in Hong Kong who have leased space in the pavilion, is an outstanding tailoring concern from the Crown Colony, and many other leading merchants and manufacturers. We have every expectation that this pavilion will accurately reflect all of the glamour and fascination and the multiple trades and crafts of the great Crown Colony of Hong Kong. Thank you very much.



HONG KONG PAVILION

HONG KONG TRADING COMPANY, INC.

JOHN P. HUMES, *Chairman of the Board*

JOHN C. Y. KAO, *President*

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